Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's foreign exchange reserves dropped to the tune of Rs. 1036.22 crores by the end of December 1989;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps during the last three months to maintain its foreign exchange reserves; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (excluding gold, Special Drawing Rights and working balances held by the Government) which stood at Rs. 6604.63 crores as on 1-4-89 decreased by Rs. 1327.33 crores to Rs. 5277.30 crores on 31-12-89.

(b) and (c) Steps have been taken to maintain the foreign exchange reserves position by initiating a number of measures to promote exports and curtail in essential imports. Attempts are being made to augment foreign exchange earnings through invisible earnings and capital inflows, including external assistance disbursements.

Payment of DA to the Central Government Employees

341. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wholesale price index for all commodities has climbed upward during the last six months;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with the increase in price-index the dearness allowances to the Central Government employees has become due with effect from 1st January, 1990; and

(d) if so, by when Government propose to announce the D.A. to the Central Government employees ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) and (b) The movement of Wholesale Price Index (1981-82=100) for the period July-Dec. 1989 was as under :—

Month ending	W.P.I. (1981-82 =100)
July, 1989	164·5
August, 1989	167·1
September, 1989 . . .	167·9
October, 1989 . . .	167·9
November, 1989 . . .	167·3
December, 1989 . . .	166·4

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Orders in this regard will be issued shortly.

Foreign Exchange released for import of books

342. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount of foreign exchange released for the import of books during the last year ;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that certain